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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. RWS-14863WO

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

In re application of:

ROBERT WESSEL

Serial No. 09/744,046

Filed: January 16, 2001

For: Closure Member for an Installation Opening
in a Shift Mechanism for Bicycles

Group Art Unit 3682

Examiner: Timothy P. McAnulty

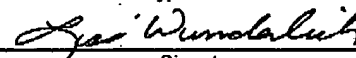
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
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March 8, 2004

Date

Lisa Wunderlich

Typed Name



Signature

REPLY

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the office action of January 7, 2004, please reconsider the
above-identified application in view of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arbeiter in view of Seidler. Examiner states that Arbeiter discloses a bicycle shift mechanism comprising a housing having an opening configured to receive a control cable but does not disclose a closure member made from an elastomeric material connected to the housing via a holding member, said closure member having an extension, a thickened portion, a molded recess, an upper lip and a lower lip wherein said upper lip and said lower lip engage an edge of said opening. Further, Examiner states, however, Seidler discloses a closure member made of elastic material having a thickened